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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/052,282

01/17/2002

Tatsuya Yoshikawa

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02/10/2005

TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

BROWN, VERNAL U

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/052,282

Applicant(s)

YOSHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Vernal U Brown

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/17/02 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/18/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The application of Tatsuya Yoshikawa et al. for Service Provision Method And Apparatus In A Distributed System filed 1/22/02 has been examined. Claims 1-39 are examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 5-6, 12-13, 15, 17-18, 22, 24, 25, 29-36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ashwin US Patent 6,232,877.

Regarding claims 1, 17, and 39 Ashwin teaches method for operating a service device (24) to provide a service (access control) comprising:
detecting a request which is generated by the transmitting of information to the reading device (col. 4 lines 43-47) from a requesting device (12) to provide said service;
obtaining peripheral information relating to one or more peripheral devices (col. 4 lines 28-33), said peripheral devices (16) inherently being within a predetermined distance of the service device because the communication between the service device and the peripheral device is RF communication (col. 2 lines 57-59) which is effective over predetermined range.

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Regarding claim 5, Ashwin teaches the peripheral information for each of said peripheral devices (16) is obtained from said peripheral device (col. 4 lines 30-31).

Regarding claim 6, Ashwin teaches detecting the peripheral device (16) making transition from a first zone that is the area outside the reading range of the reader device to a second zone that is within the range of the reading device (col. 5 lines 11-14) and the service is dependent upon detecting the transition zone in order to enable the reading of the tag device (col. 5 lines 11-18).

Regarding claims 12 and 30, Ashwin teaches the request to transport the object into a different zone includes user information indicative of a user of said requesting device (12), said step of providing further dependent on said user information (col. 5 lines 11-25).

Regarding claim 13, Ashwin teaches obtaining peripheral information includes transmitting a peripheral information request (interrogating signal) for said peripheral information (col. 4 lines 47-49).

Regarding claims 15-16 and 38, Ashwin teaches obtaining peripheral information includes transmitting a peripheral information request (interrogating signal) for said peripheral information (col. 4 lines 47-49) and receiving the access information (col. 5 lines 11-13). Ashwin also teaches a data store apparatus (22) for providing access information and storing history information of the person concerning the asset removed (col. 5 lines 31-37).

Regarding claim 18, Ashwin teaches obtaining history of the user relating the assets removed and the information is used to monitor removal of items from the secured area (col. 5 lines 31-37).

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Regarding claims 22 and 31, Ashwin teaches a service device (24) for providing access service (col. 5 lines 17-20) comprising:

detector circuit for detecting request from the requesting device (12), the request is generated by tag (12) transmitting information to the access controller (col. 4 lines 43-47);

control circuitry (reading apparatus) operable to obtain peripheral information relating to the peripheral device (col. 4 lines 28-33);

access control circuitry for allowing or disallowing access service (col. 4 lines 28-33) and operatively coupled to the control circuitry (figure 1).

Regarding claim 24, Ashwin teaches communicating with a data storage device (22) for receiving peripheral information (col. 5 lines 31-37).

Regarding claim 25, Ashwin teaches detecting the peripheral device (16) making transition from a first zone that is the area outside the reading range of the reader device to a second zone that is within the range of the reading device (col. 5 lines 11-14) and the service is dependent upon detecting the transition zone in order to enable the reading of the tag device (col. 5 lines 11-18).

Regarding claim 29, Ashwin teaches the control circuit (reading apparatus) obtains peripheral information from the host computer (col. 5 lines 31-37). The interface between the computer and the reader for receiving information is different from and independent of the detecting circuitry for detecting information from the RF tag.

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Regarding claim 32, Ashwin teaches obtaining history of the user relating the assets removed and the information is used to monitor removal of items from the secured area (col. 5 lines 31-37).

Regarding claims 33 and 35, Ashwin teaches an service control system (figure 1) for providing a service (controlling access) comprising: a requesting device (12); and a service providing device (24) in communication with said one or more requesting devices (figure 1); the service providing device comprising: detector circuitry operable to detect a request from one of said requesting devices to provide said service ; control circuitry (reader apparatus) operable to obtain peripheral information relating to one or more peripheral devices (16) (col. 4 lines 28-33), said peripheral devices (16) inherently being within a predetermined distance of the service device because the communication between the service device and the peripheral device is RF communication (col. 2 lines 57-59) which is effective over predetermined range and the access control circuitry operable to allow or disallow providing of said service depending on said peripheral information (col. 5 lines 11-18).

Regarding claim 34, Ashwin teaches the tag (peripheral device) includes storage (col. 2 lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 36, Ashwin teaches detecting a request from a requesting device by reading device receiving transmitted information from the tag (requesting device) and obtaining peripheral information from tag from tag 16 (col. 5 lines 11-13) and allow or disallow providing of the access service depending on the peripheral information (col. 5 lines 11-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashwin US Patent 6,232,877 in view of Muhme US Patent 5886634.

Regarding claims 2 and 19, Ashwin teaches an access control system in which a user request access to a secure area (col. 4 lines 20-33) but is silent on teaching the service request (access request) is dependent on a time of detection of the request. Muhme in an art related access control system teaching the service request (access request) is dependent on a time of detection of the request (col. 7 lines 16-25) so as to further increase the security of the system by further limiting the access of an individual.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the service request to be dependent on a time of detection of the request in Ashwin as evidenced by Muhme because Ashwin suggests an access control system in which a user request access to a secure area and Muhme teaches the service request (access request) is dependent on a time of detection of the request so as to further increase the security of the system by further limiting the access of an individual.

Claims 3-4, 7-10, 20-21, 23, 27-28, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashwin US Patent 6,232,877 in view of Francis et al. US Patent 6600418.

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Regarding claims 3-4, 20-21 and 23, Ashwin teaches a tag providing peripheral information that is used for identification purposes devices (col. 4 lines 28-33) but is silent on teaching the peripheral information includes information relating to position of the peripheral device relative to the service device. Francis et al. in an art related object tracking system using radio frequency tag teaches a tag providing identification and location information (col. 7 lines 15-20, col. 7 lines 42-50) in order to provide tracking information.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the peripheral information includes information relating to position of the peripheral device relative to the service device in Ashwin as evidenced by Francis et al. because Ashwin suggests a peripheral device in the form of a tag providing identification information and Francis et al. teaches a tag providing identification and location information in order to track an object.

Regarding claims 7-8, 10, 27-28, and 37, Ashwin teaches a tag providing peripheral information that is used for identification purposes devices (col. 4 lines 28-33) but is silent on teaching obtaining second peripheral information relating to position of the peripheral device relative to the service device. Francis et al. in an art related object tracking system using radio frequency tag teaches a plurality of tags (130, 140, 150) providing peripheral information such as identification and location information (col. 7 lines 15-20, col. 7 lines 42-50) in order to provide tracking information to the object monitoring system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the peripheral information includes second peripheral information relating to position of the peripheral

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device relative to the service device in Ashwin as evidenced by Francis et al. because Ashwin suggests a peripheral device in the form of a tag providing identification information and Francis et al. teaches a plurality of tags providing peripheral identification and location information in order to track an object.

Regarding claim 9, Ashwin teaches the peripheral information for each of said peripheral devices (16) is obtained from said peripheral device (col. 4 lines 30-31).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashwin US Patent 6,232,877 in view of Chan et al. US Patent 5550547.

Regarding claim 11, Ashwin teaches reading information from the peripheral tag device (16) (col. 5 lines 11-14) but is silent on teaching the service device obtaining information from the peripheral device independently of obtaining a request from the requesting device. One skilled in the art recognizes that tag devices are conventionally read independently of each other as evidenced by Chan et al. (col. 3 lines 44-54) in order to obtain information pertinent to a particular tag.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for the service device to obtain information from the peripheral device independently of obtaining a request from the requesting device in Ashwin in view of Chan et al. because Ashwin suggests reading information from the peripheral tag device and one skilled in the art recognizes that tag device are conventionally read independently of each other as evidenced by Chan et al. in order to obtain information pertinent to a particular tag.

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Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashwin US Patent 6,232,877 in view of Asama et al. US Patent 5929778.

Regarding claim 14, Ashwin teaches obtaining peripheral information from a RF tag by a reader transmitting an interrogating signal to the tag requesting information (col. 4 lines 47-49) but is silent on teaching obtaining peripheral information without transmitting a request signal. Asama et al. in an art related data carrier system teaches a tag transferring information to a tag reader without a request signal by using magnetic induction principle by which the magnetic field created by the tag reader enable the tag to transmit it stored data to the tag reader (col. 1 lines 36-67) and further permitting the tag to be operated without an active power supply.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to obtain peripheral information without transmitting a request signal in Ashwin as evidenced by Asama et al. because Ashwin suggests obtaining peripheral information from a tag device and Asama et al teaches tag transferring information to a tag reader without a request signal by using magnetic induction principle by which the magnetic field created by the tag reader enable the tag to transmit it stored data to the tag reader in order to permit the tag to be operated without an active power supply.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vernal U Brown whose telephone number is 571-272-3060. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-7:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vernal Brown
January 31, 2005

MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

